Increase in violent activities in pilgrim places

†930. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:
SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that incidents with regard to rape, molestation and other violent activities have increased continuously in the cities like Haridwar, Varanasi, Kanpur, Allahabad, etc., which are centres of spiritual faith;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the main reason behind this is the policy of negligence of pilgrim places during the course of developing tourism by Government;

(c) if so, whether Government would formulate any action plan to develop such pilgrim places; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) Maintenance of law and order at all tourist places including shrines, and places of religious importance is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

The Ministry of Tourism has advised all the State Governments and Union Territories to deploy Tourist Police to ensure safety and security of tourists at important tourist centres. Some of the States have deployed Tourist Police in one form or another.

Similarly, development and promotion of tourist places is primarily the responsibility of States/U.Ts. However, Ministry of Tourism extends Central Financial Assistance for creating inftastructure and other facilities at various tourism destinations and circuits including pilgrim places. During the Tenth Plan period, Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned Rs. 2011.68 crore for 1160 projects to various States/UTs.

Financial support to the Archaeological Survey of India

931. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Archaeological Survey of India has the support of large National and International Corporate Houses in the conservation and restoration of monuments under the National Culture Fund;

(b) if so, what are its corpuses and how much fund has been collected during the last three years;

(c) whether the major donors are associated while restoration or conservation exercises are undertaken; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.